

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02704 040652Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 AID-05 /068 W  
-----096792 040656Z /11  
O 040600Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 254

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2704

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, KS, US  
SUBJECT: REPORT ON BLUE HOUSE SURVEILLANCE - CHARGE'S MEETING WITH  
FORMIN

REF: STATE 85487

1. CHARGE ACCOMPANIED BY POLCOUNS MET WITH FORMIN, AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS DIRECTOR PAK SANG YONG MORNING OF APRIL 4 TO DISCUSS  
STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO FORMER AMBASSADOR PORTER REGARDING  
POSSIBLE BLUE HOUSE BUGGING. PRESS AND TELEVISION HAD BEEN  
ALERTED FOR MEETING AND WERE ON HAND FOR RECORDING STERN  
EXPRESSION BY FORMIN ON ARRIVAL, AT BEGINNING OF MEETING,  
AND AT DEPARTURE OF CHARGE AND POLCOUNS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO FORMIN QUERY CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT WE,  
AS YET, DO NOT HAVE TEXT OF REPORTED STATEMENT BY FORMER  
AMBASSADOR PORTER. HE THEN BRIEFED FORMIN ON STATEMENT USED  
BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT APRIL 3 NOON BRIEFING (REFTEL)

AND PROVIDED COPY OF AUGUST 10 WASHINGTON POST STORY. FORMIN  
ASKED IF CIA DIRECTOR TURNER'S REMARKS WERE TO BE CONSIDERED  
US OFFICIAL POSITION AND WAS INFORMED THAT IT WAS  
APPARENTLY SO INTENDED.

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3. FORMIN POINTED OUT THAT ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS WHEN  
THIS QUESTION HAD RISEN IT HAD BEEN IN CONNECTION WITH  
PRESS REPORTS. IN THIS INSTANCE, HOWEVER, STATEMENT  
WAS MADE BY A FORMER US AMBASSADOR AND ONE WHO HAD  
SERVED IN KOREA AND SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO KNOW  
WHERE OF HE SPOKE. CHARGE AGAIN POINTED OUT THAT WE  
DID NOT HAVE THE TEXT BUT THAT PRESS REPORTING HAD SAID

THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR PORTER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD CERTAIN ACTIVITIES HAD OCCURRED WHICH WOULD INDICATE LACK OF FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE. IN ANY EVENT STATEMENT BY CIA DIRECTOR TUERNER WAS VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD AND SHOULD DISPOSE OF THE ISSUE.

4. AFTER SEVERAL MORE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FORMIN SAID THAT WHEN HE HAD FULL DETAILS OF COMMENTS BY FORMER AMBASSADOR PORTER HE MIGHT HAVE TO COME BACK TO THE EMBASSY FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN INDIRECT REFERENCE TO THE BLUE HOUSE, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THIS OCCURENCE MIGHT HAVE VERY NEGATIVE IMPACT AND SPOKE OF NEED TO HAVE AMMUNITION IN HAND TO OFFSET THIS. HE STRESSED THAT THIS PROBLEM PLACED MOFA IN A VERY DIFFICULT BUREAUCRATIC POSITION. IN THIS RESPECT, HE HOPED THAT DEPARTMENT COULD APPROACH FORMER AMBASSADOR PORTER IN EFFORT TO HAVE HIM REMEDY THE SITUATION BY FURTHER STATEMENTS. IN ADDITION, HE RECOMMENDED CONSIDERATION OF LETTER, PRESUMABLY ADDRESSED TO THE FORMIN, WHICH WOULD ONCE AND FOR ALL SET FORTH US DENIAL OF ANY BUGGING ACTIVITY OF THE BLUE HOUSE. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT STATEMENT BY CIA DIRECTOR TURNER SHOULD PUT THE MATTER TO REST ONCE AND FOR ALL.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST FULL CONFIDENTIAL

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TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT MADE BY FORMER AMBASSADOR PORTER AS IT WAS BROADCAST EVENING OF APRIL 3.

6. GREATLY APPRECIATE PROMPT RESPONSE TO SEOUL 2686. THIS PROMPT ACTION HELPED DIFFUSE ISSUE TO SOME EXTENT. STERN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SURVEILLANCE, MEETING REPORTS  
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**Draft Date:** 04 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINR, KS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014